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October 2, 2020

Thank you for subscribing to my weekly newsletter. Below you will find important federal, state and local updates from the last week curated for you in one place.

On Monday, President Trump announced that his administration will be deploying 100 million rapid tests to states, specifically to aid in protecting vulnerable populations. President Trump highlighted the need for these tests to be used to help monitor students and reopen schools. It was my sincere honor to join the President in Washington DC for this announcement.

On Thursday the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) designated the initial voting members of Texas' first-ever regional flood planning groups that represent the state's 15 flood planning regions. I would like to thank all of the individuals that applied and to congratulate all of those who will be representing the San Jacinto River Regional Flood Planning group, especially **Jenna Armstrong** and **Russ Poppe**.

Also on Thursday, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) announced a six week extension of the minimum funding guarantee established by the original reopening guidelines issued this summer for all public school districts. This means a funding guarantee is in place for the entire first half of the school year for most districts. The announcement comes after much discussion between Governor Greg Abbott, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, Speaker Dennis Bonnen, Chairman Larry Taylor and myself. We have been closely monitoring the process and progress of our schools and communicating with parents, teachers, administrators and community members since the guidelines were issued. As we neared the original twelve-week benchmark provided to districts, it became obvious that more time was necessary for them to safely reopen. This proactive measure will ensure that districts have the flexibility to address any financial issues that may have risen as we adapt to education in the COVID-19 environment.

Should you have any questions about the information below, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please utilize email communication with our office during this time, via the email contact information at the bottom of this newsletter.

Sincerely,



State Updates



Monday, alongside Sen. Larry Taylor, we had the privilege of representing Texas at The White House for President Donald J. Trump & Vice President Mike Pence's Press Conference announcing increased COVID-19 testing for our nation's most vulnerable. This includes students and educators across the country. President Trump announced that \$150 million in rapid tests will be going to the states over the coming weeks. Thank you to this administration for these additional supplies and for hosting us!

State Updates

DSHS: COVID-19 Case Dashboard

Texas Case Counts

COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

TEA Updates Pandemic School Funding Formula

October 1, 2020 – Given the need to ensure school systems have flexibility and financial security to provide instruction while they adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Texas Education Agency announced today it will extend the current minimum funding guarantee established for the pandemic an additional six weeks, which for most, but not all districts, means a funding guarantee is in place for the entire first half of the school year. This “hold harmless” guarantee will only be available to school districts that offer in-person instruction for any Texas family that desires it. Districts must also demonstrate a good faith effort to allow for on-campus attendance. Remote instruction will also continue to be fully funded for those who wish to stay home for classes online.

This extension ensures that schools will receive their anticipated funding through the first eighteen weeks of the first semester regardless of changes to enrollment or attendance rates due to COVID-19. TEA will address whether further funding adjustments for the second semester are needed based upon information and data gathered between now and January 2021.

It is important to note that school systems are already fully funded this year based on students who are enrolled and who attend remotely or on campus.

This minimum funding guarantee will address the slight decline in enrollment in Texas public schools this year due to the pandemic. Schools that are open for on-campus instruction have generally seen higher levels of enrollment than those relying solely on virtual education. Schools have taken tremendous steps to ensure that the on-campus environment remains safe, so enrollment has also increased as it has become clearer that COVID-19 does not seem to be spreading in schools at significant rates. School districts that utilize this extension will be required to identify students who are missing from enrollment and determine their location. Parents are also urged to ensure that their children are enrolled and attending school.

Taxpayers in Texas are not expected to fund school systems for students that are not being educated, so, ultimately, school budgets will continue to be based on enrollment. This limited “hold harmless” extension provides time for the enrollment picture to become more stable, so that schools can wait to make operational and budget adjustments based upon clearer information.

School districts that have been approved to offer a hybrid-only high school instructional setting can continue to do so. Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath retains the authority to consider exceptions for extenuating circumstances.

Upon making this announcement, Commissioner Morath said: “Given the uncertain nature of this public health crisis, we are giving as much support and flexibility as possible to school districts to ensure that we are balancing the need for student learning with our desire to help all our state’s students, teachers, staff, and families remain healthy and safe.”

DSHS: Early Flu Immunization Will Help Protect Texas From COVID-19

Early Flu Immunization Will Help Protect Texas From COVID-19

Oct. 1 is Texas Influenza Awareness Day With cold and flu season beginning and COVID-19 still

spreading in Texas, now is a perfect time to get a flu shot. The Texas Department of State Health Services encourages everyone to protect themselves,...

[Read more](#)
dshs.texas.gov

FEMA Group Flood Insurance Policies (GFIP) End October 24, 2020



TDEM
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

FEMA Group Flood Insurance Policies End October 24, 2020

7,000 #Texans holding Group Flood Insurance Policies (GFIP) must switch to standard flood insurance policies by Oct. 24, 2020 to ensure continuous coverage for any future #flood events. □ Are you one of them? ■ Visit <https://t.co/jOyDbWkSra> ■ NFIP ...

[Read more](#)
twitter.com

Harvey households covered by FEMA group flood insurance...

AUSTIN, Texas - Many families affected by Hurricane Harvey in August 2017 did not have flood insurance. As part of its disaster assistance, FEMA provided Group Flood Insurance Policies (GFIP) to 6,704 households across counties impacted by...

[Read more](#)
www.fema.gov

TxDOT: Notice - Final Environmental Impact Statement Available for North Houston Highway Improvement Project

Notice Final Environmental Impact Statement Available...

The preferred alternative would include roadway improvements to add four managed express (MaX) lanes on I-45 from Downtown Houston to Beltway 8 North, reroute I-45 to be parallel with I-10 on the north side of Downtown Houston and parallel to US...

[Read more](#)
www.txdot.gov

CMR. Bush Announces Mail Drop Program at Texas State Veterans Homes



CMR. BUSH ANNOUNCES MAIL DROP PROGRAM AT TEXAS STATE...

PRESS RELEASE - Sep 28, 2020 Today, Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush announced the revamp of "Mail Drop," a program geared towards creating community engagement with Veterans who reside in our Texas State Veterans Homes run by the Veterans...

[Read more](#)
www.glo.texas.gov

TWDB: Members of Texas' First-Ever Flood Planning Groups Designated

Texas Water Newsroom

AUSTIN - (October 1, 2020) - The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) today designated the initial voting members of Texas' first-ever regional flood planning groups that represent the state's 15 flood planning regions. "Local leaders and...

[Read more](#)
texaswaternewsroom.org

Texas GLO Hits 2,000 Homes and Counting



Cmr. George P. Bush: Texas GLO hits 2,000 homes and counting

Cmr. George P. Bush: Texas GLO hits 2,000 homes and counting Celebrates significant milestones in long-term disaster recovery including reimbursement, multifamily affordable rental, infrastructure and buyout/acquisition programs Contact: Brittany ...

[Read more](#)
www.glo.texas.gov

City of Houston & Harris County Updates

Harris County Public Health Dashboard



Harris County
Public Health
Building a Healthy Community

H.D. 127 Updates

Humble ISD Foundation: Overcoming Dyslexia



Overcoming Dyslexia

If you meet Ryan Huberty today, he would tell you his story of when he was diagnosed with dyslexia in second grade. He struggled to read and he was frustrated in not being able to do something that his friends seemed to do so easily - read.

[Read more](#)

www.humbleisdoundation.org

Click Here to Donate to
the
Ryan J. Huberty Fund

Mayor Pro-tem Dave Martin and State
Representative Dan Huberty - Party on the Screen



Lake Houston Area Chamber's



Party on the Screen

Join us for Party on the Screen October 29, 2020 Party Packs for Sponsors and Reservations (at certain levels) Lake Houston Cornhole and Axe Throwing Championships Virtual Auction Be the first to see the BIG REVEAL! Click here for Party on the...

[Read more](#)

Kingwood E-Waste Recycling

FREE E-WASTE RECYCLING

Bring Your Used Electronics to Recycle!



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2020
9AM - 3PM

KINGWOOD METRO PARK & RIDE

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Increased safety protocol due to Covid-19:
Residents will be required to wear a mask or
face covering when talking to staff on site.
Residents are encouraged to place items for
drop-off in their trunk for easy contactless
unloading.

ACCEPTED ITEMS:

Computers	Monitors	TVs *
Routers	Hubs	Mice & Keyboards
Laptops	Printers	Switches
Power Cords	Cables	Fax Machines
UPS	Servers	Cell Phones
Cellular Phones	DVD Players	Telephones
VCRs	Cable Boxes	Toner Cartridges
Scrap Metal/Wire	Ink Jet Cartridges	Copiers

**CRT TV's up to 27" and Flat Screen up to 50"*

WWW.HOUSTONSOLIDWASTE.ORG



Capitol Office Closure

The Capitol office will remain closed in line with suggested Stay Home, Work Safe guidelines. Please utilize email communication with our office during this time, via the email contact information at the bottom of this newsletter or district127.huberty@house.texas.gov.

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